

REMARKS

Claims 64-90 are pending in this application, with claims 65 and 69-89 being withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 79, 82, 85 and 87 are amended solely to revise claim identifier status to reflect that these claims are now withdrawn and claims 64 and 90 are amended for further clarity. No new matter is added.

I. Pending Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of all prior grounds of rejection in favor of new grounds.

The Office Action rejects claims 64, 68 and 90 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,308,427 to Duhaime et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 64 recites that an overmolded wall portion provides "a portion in relief on the inside of the tank that defines a housing." Claim 64 now more clearly specifies that it is this portion in relief that defines an internal housing. Furthermore, an attachment (such as valve 24), separate from the insert, is "attached to the portion in relief and at least partially received in the housing." Independent claim 90 similarly recites that a covering portion is "in direct contact with the insert" and that this covering portion (the portion of the wall covering the insert) is "in relief and defines an internal housing." Further, an attachment is "partially received in the housing."

This is consistent with all of Applicants' embodiments where, for example, the portion in relief (22, 28) defined by the overmolded portion of wall portion (1) having an outside surface in direct contact with the insert (5) forms an internal housing (space in the middle of the insert between branches 21a, 21b, 21c) that partially receives an attachment (24) (Applicants' Figs. 6A-B and page 8, lines 1-25). Also see Applicants' Fig. 1 embodiment.

Duhaime fails to teach each and every feature of independent claims 64 or 90 and therefore a prima facie case of anticipation has not been met. In particular, the Office Action

relies on Figs. 7, 8 and 10 for the allegation that core (24) and wall section (18) form a housing. Applicants note that Fig. 8 relied on by the Examiner does not include a core (24) and thus fails to include an insert as claimed. However, as clearly shown and described in Duhaime's Figs. 9-10 embodiment, wall section (18) forms a covering portion (26'), referred to by Duhaime as a projection, that extends into an opening of element (28). Thus, the alleged overmolded wall portion (18) in Duhaime does not define "a portion in relief, on the inside of the tank, that includes a housing" and clearly does not teach an "internal housing" as now clarified in claim 64 and similarly recited in claim 90. In particular, as shown by Fig. 9, the stops 42 are merely spots and do not form a housing. Projection 26' also does not form a housing and clearly does not define an internal housing as now clarified in the claims.

Moreover, the alleged attachment (28') is not "at least partially received in the housing" as recited in claim 64 and similarly recited in claim 90. Rather, it is the protruding element (26') that is received within the attachment (28') (within opening 30') as clearly shown in Figs. 9-10. Thus, if anything, Duhaime teaches against the claimed features.

The subject matter of claims 64 and 90 has advantages over the Duhaime structure. For example, the Duhaime structure requires an opening in the attachment (member 28) for connection. This opening is not required by the inventions defined by independent claims 64 or 90.

Because Duhaime fails to teach each and every feature of independent claims 64 or 90, these claims are not anticipated by Duhaime. Rejected dependent claim 68 is allowable for its dependence on allowable base claim 64 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 66 and 67 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Duhaime in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,952,347 to Kasugai. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Duhaime is discussed above. Kasugai fails to overcome the deficiencies of Duhaime with respect to independent claim 64. Accordingly, dependent claims 66 and 67 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claim 64 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejoinder of Claims

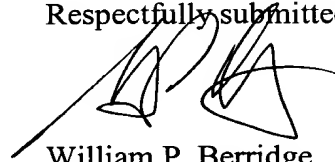
Claims 65, and 69-89 are indicated to be withdrawn (even though some were addressed in the prior art rejection). However, because independent claim 64 is generic and allowable for the reasons discussed above, all of dependent claims 65 and 69-89 are also allowable for their dependence on allowable generic claim 64 and must be rejoined and allowed in accordance with MPEP §821.04.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 20, 2006

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